OVERVIEW OF
2014 GED® TEST

FINDING ANSWERS

The purpose of today's webinar is to give an overview of the resources available to help find answers to questions about the 2014 GED® testing program. We are all on the same team here—GED Testing Service®, our office, adult educators, and students! We are trying to help those without a high school credential take and pass the GED® test and go on to the next step in their lives.

There is really no way to give a quick summary of the 2014 GED® Testing program. There are too many details and special cases. Likewise, if we try to put together a comprehensive handbook, it begins to look like the resources already available through GED Testing Service®. Today we are going to survey the resources, learn what is available, where it is located, and then use those resources as a go-to-reference guide when encountering a new situation or problem.

The 2014 GED® Testing Program is designed and managed by GED Testing Service®. In designing this program, GED Testing Service® made the decision to build it around the test-taker.

MyGED™, the student portal at GED.com, is easy to navigate and provides the student with information about preparing for and taking the GED® test, it even includes specific Kentucky testing policies. This is where the student goes to take GED Ready™ - The Official Practice test, register, schedule, and pay for for the GED® test. This is also where the student goes to check scores.

There is an adult education program finder at that site, based on zip code. Under the Ready test alerts, all Kentucky test-takers receive, there is a link to all Kentucky adult education centers.

There are test taking tips and also information about college and careers. It is a one-stop center for all things related to GED® testing and beyond.

With the 2014 testing program, the role of the state GED® test office has changed somewhat.

- While we currently approve the locations for the testing centers, we no longer have direct supervision over those centers.
- There are no more GED® Examiners; the role of the Pearson proctor/test administrator is fundamentally different. There is now no local person to receive or check for eligibility. Documentation for those 16, 17, and 18 years old is now sent directly to our office. The test-taker receives an email once we have received the proper documentation and released the age waiver for these test-takers.
- GED Testing Service® now records the Ready test scores and releases test-takers to schedule the GED® test once a ready test has been passed.

A few things are the same:
- Our office will still issue the diploma packets to Kentucky test-takers.
- All Kentucky test-takers, from 1950 – present, will still go to GED.KY.gov to get transcripts for employment or school and request replacement diplomas if needed. We also have an electronic transcript, which is usually available the same day the request is received. And all those who were issued GED123 access codes, those codes can still be used at no fee at GED.KY.gov to access their electronic transcripts.

Kentucky Adult Educator

- Provide standards-based instruction
- Give GED Ready™ test
- Assist students with their test-taker journey

The adult educator role has not changed that much, but there might be a shift in emphasis:

- Provide standards-based instruction.
- Shift instruction to computer.
- While adult educators will still give the Ready test in most settings, with the computer timing and grading most of the test, the emphasis can shift to more of an instructional role. Remember, the computer will not give feedback about the written responses. Students are counting on adult educators to give them the professional evaluation and diagnostic assistance that will help them be successful on the GED® test.
- Finally, remember this testing system is designed for the student. Please let the students make their own accounts and be there to assist them as needed as they go through the process.

Lessons Learned

2002	2014
☐ No testing materials until late January	☐ Test available on January 2
☐ No practice test until March	☐ Practice test released November 2013
☐ Publishers did not have instructional materials available until March	☐ Over 20 publishers had materials available in 2013

When we turned the calendar to January 2014, there was no way to instantly comprehend the 2014 testing program.

The transition to the 2014 test benefited from some lessons learned during the move to the 2002 test.

Overall we are in a much better position to help students move forward with the 2014 GED® test than we were in 2002.

And yes, people have already taken and passed the 2014 GED® test.

New Testing Program

- Details to master
- Processes to understand
- Unanticipated issues to resolve
- Different perspectives to fit together

Remember, GED Testing Service®, created this system with the test-taker in mind. While the student has access to their scores, it is not always easy for the educator to view student data. While there are plans to make an analytics system available to educators so educators can view student scores and data, that system is not yet available. Luckily Kentucky educators have the KAERS system. 2014 GED® test scores are already available in KAERS.

Also, there are issues that are not anticipated. GED Testing Service® has certainly been willing to make adjustments. For example: Last year, we asked GED Testing Service® to allow students to pass a single module of the Ready test and then proceed to that same part of the GED® test rather than requiring all four modules of the Ready test be passed before any content area of the GED® test could be scheduled. We were told this was not possible. But when 2014 arrived, we found out in practice that option is available. A student can pass the Science Ready test and then proceed directly to scheduling and taking the Science GED® test while still working on math and the other modules of the practice tests.

Here is another example on the next slide.

Breaking News:
Extra Time for Math Test

- Math test has been increased by 25 min for a total time of 115 min
- GED Ready™ Math time has been increased by an additional 13 min
- Times have been automatically updated

Based on their data from test-takers and the amount of time test-takers are spending on the GED® Math test, GED Testing Service® has extended the amount of time time allowed for the GED® Math test. This announcement was made on Friday afternoon.

Students who have previously taken the GED® Math test whether they passed or failed, will be given a free test voucher by GED Testing Service® to retake the math test. Please note that the math ready test has been increased by 13 additional minutes. Students who did not pass the Math Ready test, will also be sent vouchers for a free retest.

FINDING ANSWERS

FAQ for Educators

Kentucky Testing Information

KY Adult Education

Knowing that we don't have all the answers, and things sometimes change, where do we go for information about the 2014 Testing Program?

Here are three main sources:

- FAQ for Educations at GEDTestingService.com
- Kentucky Testing Information at GED.com
- and the KYAE website

FAQ for Educators

GEDTestingService.com
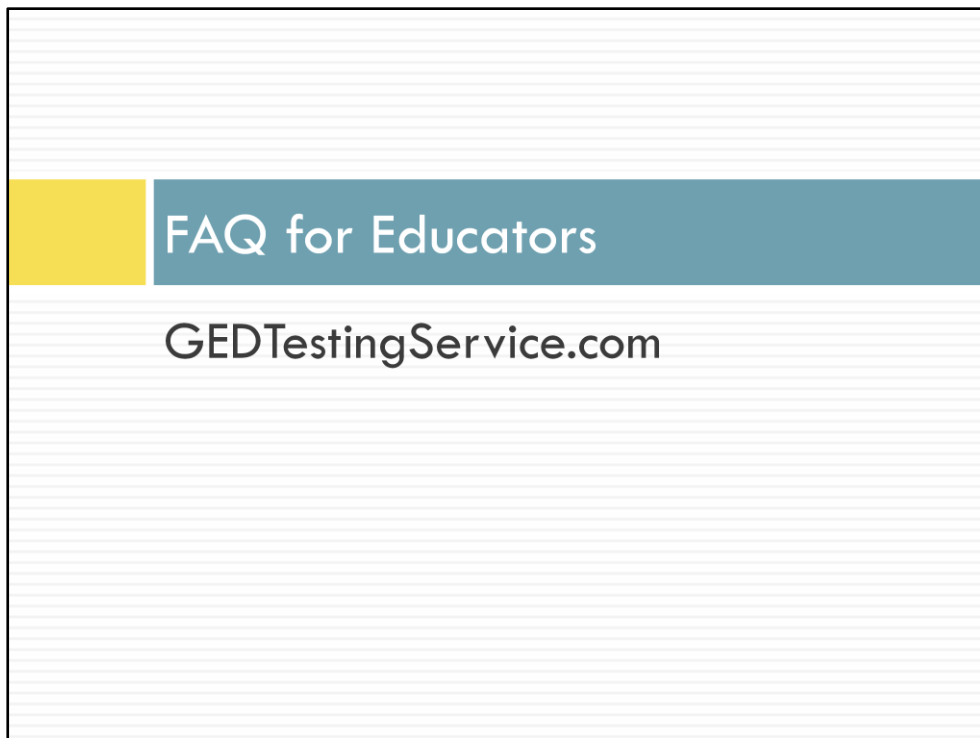
When you ask GED Testing Service® a question, the answer usually comes directly from the FAQ for Educators.   This is an in-depth resource on a broad range of topics. Here is where you find it.
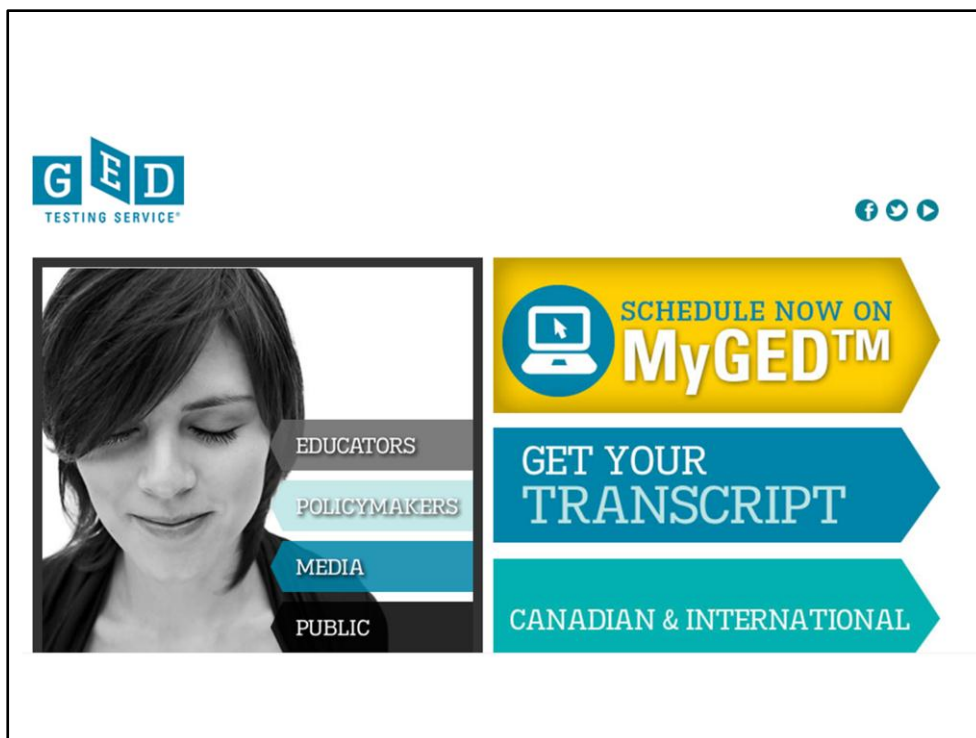
If you go to GEDTestingService.com, select any of the topics on the left hand side—educators, policy makers, public, etc.

Under any of those selections, you will find Programs and Services. Under Programs and Services, you will see FAQS listed as the last item under the 2014 Program.

About GED Testing Service

What we do   History of the test
FAQs   Events
Videos   Subscribe to emails
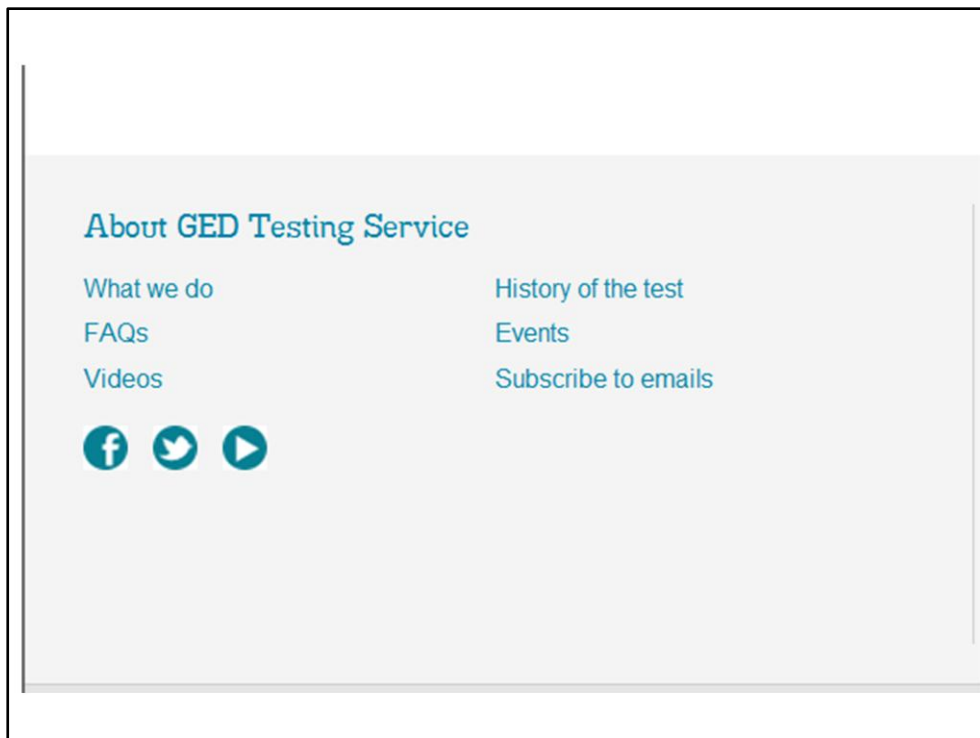
Also, at the bottom of any page at GEDTestingService.com, you will see FAQs listed in the footer on every page.

Topics in FAQ for Educators

- About the 2014 Program and Test
- Preparation and Practice Test
- Details about Each Module
- Automated Scoring Engine

- Item Types and Samplers
- Clocks and Breaks
- Accommodations
- Standardization, Norming, and Passing Standards
- Background Knowledge

There are 26 topics listed for the FAQs. You can select any topic and go directly to that section. Here are some examples. These are most of the things we have received questions about from adult educators.

Sample Questions

- How is the extended response scored on the practice test?
- How is the extended response scored on the GED® test?
- How many questions are on each test?
- How long is each test?
- Are all questions worth one point?
- How does someone correct their address?

Here are some sample questions.

Here are the answers:
- The computer scores all items on GED Ready™ with the exception of the constructed response items, which are scored by adult educators using the scoring tools that are available at GEDTestingService.com
- Humans score extended response items during the field-testing process. These human scoring materials and results are used to train a computer Automated Scoring Engine (ASE) in order to replicate the human scoring process. In addition, humans always score a sample of responses as part of the quality assurance process, and responses flagged as unusual or unique by the scoring engine are automatically kicked out as "outliers" and forwarded to human scorers for evaluation and scoring.
- The new test forms do not specify numbers of test questions – they are based on raw score points instead since all items are no longer worth just one point each. The final raw score point totals are as follows:
    - Reasoning Through Language Arts – 65 raw score points
    - Mathematical Reasoning – 49 raw score points
    - Science – 40 raw score points
    - Social Studies – 44 raw score points.
- Remember that scores from the 2014 GED® test are transformed to a common scaled score metric, to make the scores easier to use and interpret across the content areas. The 2014 scale runs from 100 to 200, with 150 scaled score points as the

Passing Standard for high school equivalency and 170 scaled score points as the GED® Score with Honors, reflective of readiness for career and college.

- The Reasoning Through Language Arts test is 150 minutes long and testing is broken down into three sections:
    - Section 1 (35 minutes*) tests all content
    - Section 2 (45 minutes) is the Extended Response portion of the test
    - Student break (10 minutes)
   - Section 3 (60 minutes*) tests all content
    *The time allotted for sections 1 and 3 may vary slightly, but the total test time will always be 150 minutes.
- The Mathematical Reasoning test is 115 minutes long and is one single section.
    - Part 1 – (first 5 test questions) calculator not allowed
    - Part 2 – (remaining 41 test questions) calculator allowed
    - Students must submit their answers to the first five questions before moving on to the rest of the test. These parts are not timed separately.
- The Social Studies test is 90 minutes long and testing is broken down into two sections:
    - Section 1 (65 minutes) tests all content
    - Section 2 (25 minutes) is the Extended Response portion of the test
- The Science test is 90 minutes long and is one single section.
- Different questions on the test will be worth different score points. So, for example, a test item with two drop-down selections would be worth two points, since the test-taker is being asked two separate things about one set of stimulus material.
- Students can edit their profile at GED.com and are prompted to do on numerous occasions.

Kentucky Testing Information

MyGED™ Portal

GED.com
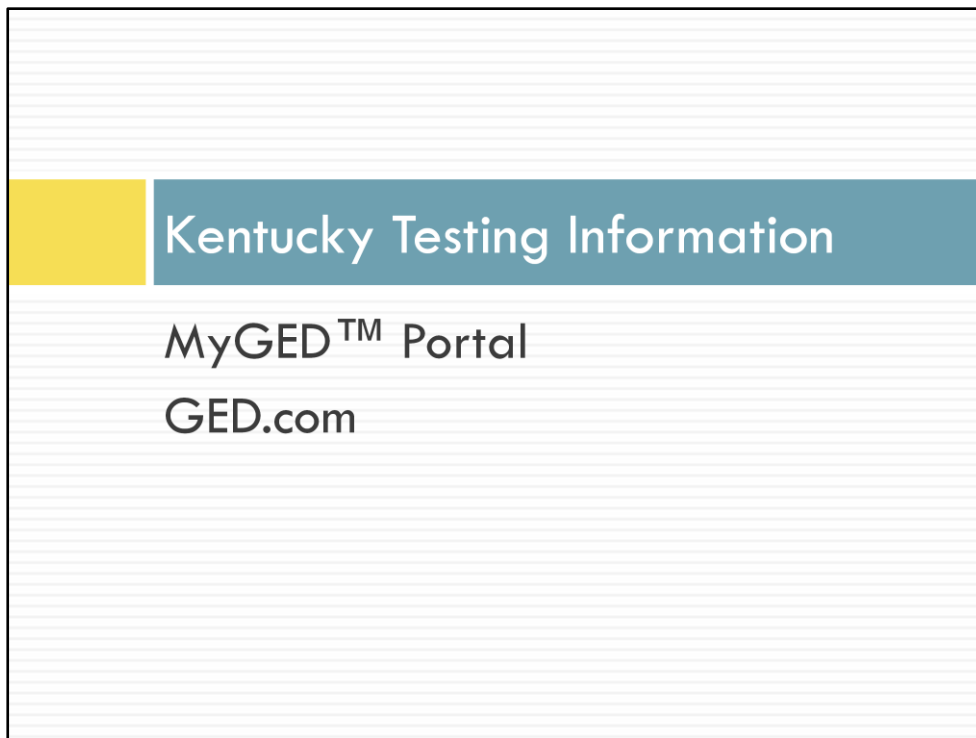
The next resource is Kentucky Testing Information. This explains the Kentucky rules for taking the GED® Test.

Our rules are in state regulation. The eligibility regulation -- updated to reflect the change in the age for compulsory school attendance and to take out the KYAE-6 testing application -- is in the final stage of approval.

We submitted our Kentucky rules to GED Testing Service® in November, unfortunately, when 2014 rolled around, there were many errors in how this information was entered at the GED.com website. However, most significant errors have now been corrected. You can find this document at both GEDTestingService.com and at GED.com. It is easier to find at GED.com.
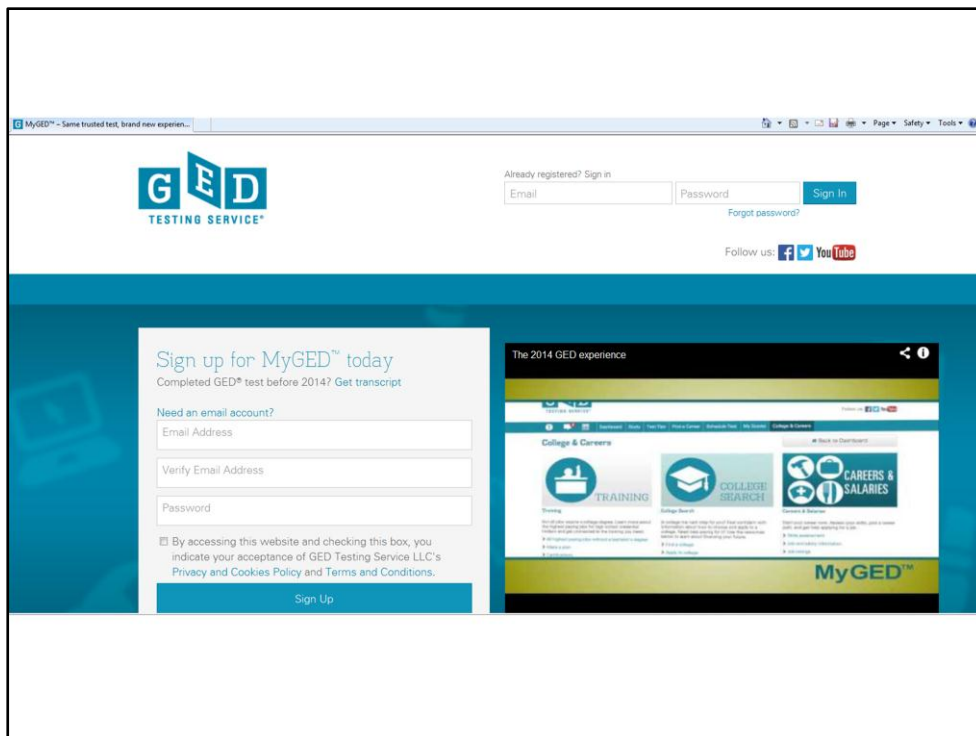
Sign into your account at GED.com
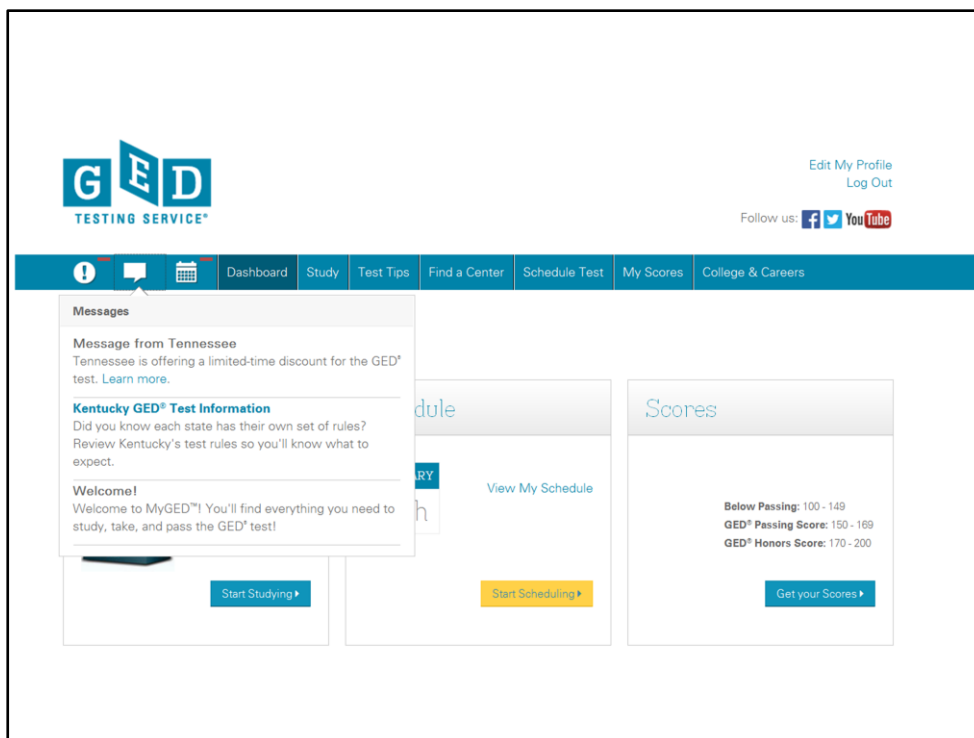
On the next page, under the message icon, you will find Kentucky GED® test information.

Topics in KY Testing Information

- State Requirements
- Price & Payment
- Registration & Scheduling
- Test Scores
- Retake Policies
- Languages
- GED® Test Credential

Here are the topics you will find under Kentucky Testing Information.

Sample Questions

- What if I am younger than 19?

- How much does it cost to retest?

- What are the requirements to retest?

- Can I combine Spanish and English scores?

- Can I test in another state?

Here are sample questions.

Here are the answers:
- In Kentucky, you can take the GED® test if you have reached the legal age of withdrawal in the local school district where you live and have officially withdrawn from school for at least 90 days as certified by the local school district. The local school superintendent may waive the 90 day school withdrawal requirement due to post-secondary enrollment, employment, medical reason, family crises or other extenuating circumstances. Students must complete the application form and the documentation of withdrawal form or receive other permissions.
- $10 for two attempts for each module as long as GED Testing Service® is waiving their fee.
- While Kentucky has no requirements for retest, we strongly urge test-takers to seek additional instruction before retesting.
- In Kentucky, a test-taker must earn the GED® test credential in a single language. We do not combine Spanish and English scores.
- Some states allow people who don't live there to take the GED® test and others don't. You'll need to check the residency requirement for the state that you're interested to test in. Sorry, Kentucky doesn't allow people to take the test there unless they have a Kentucky mailing address.
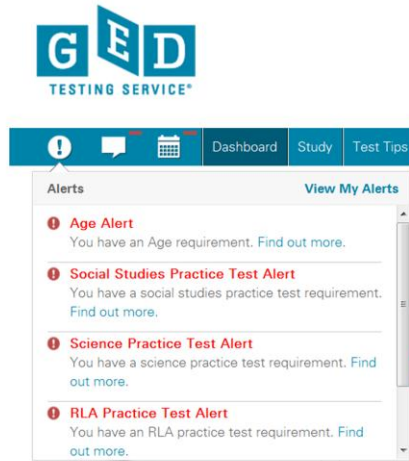
On this same dashboard at GED.com, you will find alerts under the exclamation point! Every Kentucky test-taker will have alerts, because every Kentucky test-taker must pass the practice test before they can schedule to take the GED® test. There will be an alert for each of the four modules of the practice test.

For those 16, 17, and 18 years old, there will also be an age alert. These test-takers must submit proof of withdrawal from school and other permissions if needed. Select "Find out more" and the forms and directions for submitting the forms will be provided.

The information appears here, because 1. students must have an account at GED.com before the documents are submitted and 2. once the eligibility regulation receives final approval, and the application form is no longer in regulation, changes and updates will me made to the forms. **Remember to go here for the latest version of the forms.**

KY Adult Education

KYAE.KY.gov

If you go to the KYAE website, KYAE.KY.gov, select educators and then GED®, you will see this page.

Here you will find links to both the FAQ for Educators and the Kentucky testing Information.

You will also see links to alerts we have previously issued. A copy of this presentation will also be posted.

THANK YOU

Take survey to guide future topics at
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8YLS5HT.

To ask a question, please email GED@KY.gov
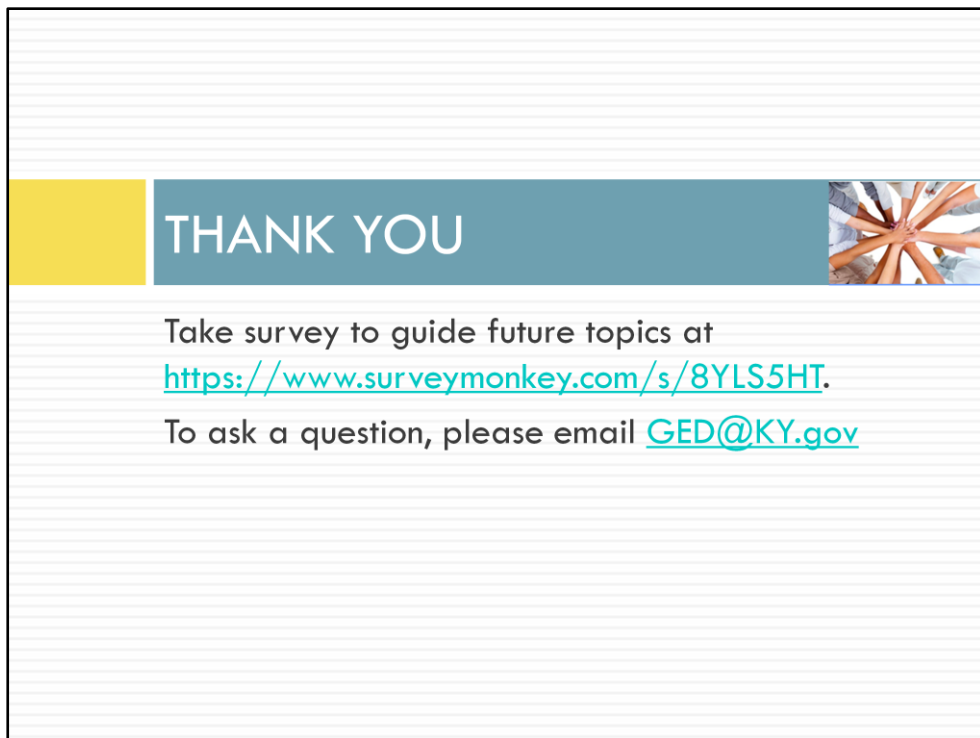
Finally, we are all going to have to work together.

We can do additional webinars if you find this helpful. Here is a link a link to a survey for your suggestions: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8YLS5HT.

If you have a question about Kentucky testing information, you can email us at GED@KY.gov.

If you have a general questions about the 2014 GED® Testing Program, we will be glad to help you find that information as well.